

Entered 04-17-00 - sb  
CL 00L0225 - ALEXIS HOLMES

00-*R*-1751

CLAIM OF:

**The Estate and Minor Child of  
RICHARD BRANNON  
through the attorney,  
Jonathan J. Wade, Esq.  
Webb, Stuckey & Lindsey, LLC.  
400 Westpark Court  
Suite 220  
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269**

For damages alleged to have been sustained from a wrongful death  
due to injuries received in a vehicular accident on September 27,  
1999 in Clayton County.

**THIS ADVERSED REPORT IS  
APPROVED:**

BY:   
ROSALIND RUBENS NEWELL  
DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY

**DEPARTMENT OF LAW - CLAIM INVESTIGATION SUMMARY**

Claim No. 00L0225

Date: October 19, 2000

Notice is hereby given that a legal tort claim for damages is asserted against the City, its police department, and the involved officer(s) individually and in their official capacities for their actions on September 27, 1999.

The case may be summarized as follows:

- a. On September 27, 1999 at about 1855 Atlanta Police (Officer M. Gardner) began pursuing a Chevy Blazer or GMC Jimmy, VIN 1G5EK18H2CF503408. The chase entered Clayton County, where the Blazer crashed, ejecting the three occupants. One occupant was our client Richard Brannon. According to the Pursuit Report, the high speed chase over apparent traffic charges lasted about 30 minutes and covered 10 miles. While the Atlanta officer claimed he terminated pursuit at the Clayton County line, other jurisdictions and witnesses maintain otherwise. Despite the fact that upon Officer Gardner's arrival at the scene, one of the occupants had fled, and the others ejected, Officer Gardner decided Mr. Brannon had been the driver and charged him with fleeing, auto theft, abandonment of controlled substance, no proof of insurance, DUI, and reckless driving. Mr. Brannon was in fact a passenger and not the driver.
- b. Mr. Brannon was admitted to Southern Regional Medical Center after a collision on September 27, 1999 with diagnoses of bilateral pulmonary contusions, facial lacerations, concussion, and hypokalemia.
- c. A CT scan of his head done on September 28, 1999 showed pneumocephalus and a frontal sinus fracture.
- d. Mr. Brannon had an episode of oxygen desaturation late on September 29, 1999 and had tests on September 30, 1999 to rule out pulmonary emboli.
- e. Mr. Brannon was placed on a two week course of antibiotics on October 1, 1999 due to the frontal sinus fracture.
- f. An infectious disease consult was obtained on October 2, 1999. He had a fever which was thought to be due to sepsis arising from his sinuses.
- g. Blood cultures grew gram positive bacteria and he was started on IV Vancomycin and Fortaz on October 3 for better central nervous system penetration.
- h. Mr. Brannon was febrile on October 4, 1999 and continued to have a cerebrospinal leak due to the right front sinus fracture.
- i. The reading of the first blood culture was available on October 5, 1999 as gram positive cocci in pairs and chains Streptococcus pneumoniae, which was sensitive to Vancomycin only. It was resistant to Cefotaxime, Ceftriaxone, and Penicillin-G.
- j. The cerebrospinal leak was noted as resolved on October 6, 1999. IV Vancomycin was ordered for an additional ten days.
- k. Mr. Brannon had complaints of neck pain and headache on October 7, 1999. He would be observed for 24 hours and then discharged. The complaints were resolved the next day.

**OCTOBER 8, 1999**

- l. Mr. Brannon was discharged from SRMC into the custody of the Clayton County Police (Officer Duffey) on October 8, 1999 at 1800. Officer Duffey's report indicates that he was "informed by SRMC medical staff that two IV catheters were left in the arms of offender Brannon in order to facilitate further IV antibiotic treatment which he will need to receive at the Grady Detention Center." Mr. Brannon had two central catheter and midline catheter (PICC's) in place for administration of these doses.
- m. The discharge information sheet clearly stated that 1) the PICC line was to be continued, 2) Mr. Brannon's vitals were to be checked every four (4) hours, and 3) the Vancomycin was to be continued every 12 hours for 9 days until 10/16/1999. Mr. Brannon's primary physician's telephone number was also provided.
- n. The Clayton police transferred Mr. Brannon to the custody of the City of Hapeville Police Department upon Officer Mander's arrival at SRMC. Officer Manders advised Officer Duffey that "Offender Brannon would be taken to the Grady Hospital Detention Center by Fulton County officials."
- o. Officer Manders' report states that upon his arrival at SRMC, he was told of the IV lines still in Mr. Brannon's arm by the Clayton Officer. He further states that he "asked about the paperwork on Mr. Brannon. The paperwork stated he was to get IV antibiotics every 12 hours for 9 days", and that he was told by the nurse that was why the PICC lines could not be taken out.
- p. Officer Manders' supervisor's report further indicates that he was likewise told that "Mr. Brannon would require antibiotics every twelve hours and be checked by a doctor every four hours." He further indicates that after Mr. Brannon was booked and bound over to Fulton by City of Hapeville, Mr. Brannon was transported to Grady Hospital by Officer Lowery with his medical information.
- q. Officer Lowery's reports indicate that he was dispatched at approximately 2000 on the 8<sup>th</sup> to transport Mr. Brannon to Grady and turn him over to Fulton County there. He documented that Mr. Brannon had a visible injury to the back of his head and superficial appearing injuries about his face. He was transported in the passenger seat due to bed sores.
- r. The Hapeville dispatcher documented that she was told by Officer Manders, while the officer was still at SRMC, that Mr. Brannon was "still hooked to IV's, a catheter, and also had strict discharge orders of IV antibiotics every 12 hours for 9 days, and his vital signs must be checked every 4 hours." She further documented that Mr. Brannon was to be bound over to Fulton from Hapeville and released to "Fulton County at Grady Hospital insuring Mr. Brannon would be in a medical facility to receive treatment per Southern Regional's release instructions." She further documented that after the bind over hearing at the Hapeville Jail, Mr. Brannon's "discharge papers from Southern Regional" were given to Officer Lowery to take to Grady with Mr. Brannon. She finally documented that she was

later advised that Grady was refusing to take Mr. Brannon, and that Lowery was instructed to take Mr. Brannon to a Sergeant Griffin in the hospital and release Mr. Brannon to him.

- s. Fulton County Sheriff's Department employee Shawn Johnson at Grady documented that Mr. Brannon was brought to his custody at 9:40 pm on October 8, 1999, and that he was kept in the emergency detention area. The Grady Hospital Detention Center Sheriff's tracking sheet likewise documents that he arrived at 2140 hours.
- t. The medical record at Grady indicates that he was evaluated by an unknown physician at approximately 2220 hours on October 8, 1999, and that instructions were written to "follow up with medical at jail, continue present medication." There is no indication however that Mr. Brannon received his Vancomycin during this Grady visit during the late hours of October 8, 1999.

#### OCTOBER 9, 1999

- u. Fulton County records document that he was then discharged from Grady at about 0050 hours on October 9, 1999 to be transported to the Fulton County jail, and arrived at the jail at about 0305 hours.
- v. The Fulton jail record indicates that Dr. Joseph Fowlkes of Correctional Healthcare Solutions, Inc., the corporation with whom you contracted to provide medical services for your inmates, issued a telephone order to Grady for Mr. Brannon to "continue on Vancomycin IV therapy (PICC catheter)" at some time during October 9, 1999.
- w. Correctional Healthcare Solutions, Inc. (hereinafter CHS), upon good information and belief, is a Pennsylvania for profit corporation that holds or held the contract to provide medical services and personnel to the Fulton County Jail.
- x. Upon further good information and belief, Dr Fowlkes, Dr Minerve, and all other medical providers (as used hereinafter meaning "including but not limited to physicians, nurses, technicians and assistants") who provided medical care and treatment to Richard Brannon at the Fulton County Jail were actual or apparent agents or employees of CHS and/or Fulton County acting within the course and scope of said actual or apparent agency/employment for Fulton County and/or CHS at all times relevant to this case.
- y. The Fulton jail records further indicate that at 0900 on October 9, 1999, an unknown physician (# 16250) ordered that Mr. Brannon should be returned to yellow zone detention at Grady for follow up care, and to establish Mr. Brannon's history from Southern Regional Hospital.
- z. However, Mr. Brannon was not transported by the Sheriff's Department until 1645 to Grady Memorial Hospital Emergency Care Clinic on October 9 and arrived at 1710 for his antibiotic. Resident physician Dr. Shane Darrah and a Dr. Sheay (#041820) saw him and decided, with some input from a Dr. Thomas, that

Vancomycin was not necessary and ordered oral Augmentin to simply be given at the jail. There are no laboratory test results, physical examination results, or history information results from SRMC or its physicians found in the record to reflect how and why this decision was made. He was transferred back to the jail at 2130.

- aa. The jail records indicate that Dr. Minerve ordered that Mr. Brannon should be observed on October 9, 1999 at 2300 and he was apparently transferred to the Medical Observation Unit at the jail.
- bb. The jail records document that on October 9, 1999, a physician from Grady called the jail and instructed the nurse that there was no need for Vancomycin, that he was to receive Augmentin, and to schedule a PICC line removal and a referral to plastic surgery.

**OCTOBER 10, 1999**

- cc. The jail infirmary admission record reflects that on October 10, 1999 at 0145 am Mr. Brannon was documented as currently taking Vancomycin, and that his last dose had been on October 8, 1999. (A note on the side indicates that on October 12, 1999, someone asked that this admission be completed.)
- dd. The jail records for October 10, 1999 document that at 1000 hours, Mr. Brannon was complaining that his head was spinning, and he was "not feeling well." He further had a bloody nose with old dry blood. He further advised that he was supposed to be on antibiotics.
- ee. The jail records further indicate that at 1230 on the 10th, Mr. Brannon had a temperature of 100.4, vomitus was noted on the floor, and he was responsive only to verbal yes/no questions.
- ff. The jail record further documents that at 1300 on the 10th, Dr. Minerve was "made aware of present symptoms and diagnosis as noted on Grady document." Dr. Minerve apparently instructed the nurse to observe Mr. Brannon and to notify him if Mr. Brannon vomited again, but neither evaluated him nor ordered that he be returned to Grady for evaluation.
- gg. The jail record's last entry for October 10, 1999, at 1400, indicates that Mr. Brannon apparently had no further vomiting, but complained that "I am still slightly weak."
- hh. No further entries are noted for the remainder of October 10, 1999.

**OCTOBER 11, 1999**

- ii. The jail records further indicate that on October 11, 1999 at 1200, Mr. Brannon was asking for "help". The nurse documents that he was complaining of generalized discomfort, and planned to simply continue to monitor him.
- jj. At 1250 on October 11, 1999 Dr. Fowlkes evaluated Mr. Brannon at the jail, noting the history of vomiting the previous night, and he likewise felt nauseous at

# WEBB, STUCKEY & LINDSEY, LLC

Attorneys-At-Law

James H. Webb Jr. \*  
John M. Stuckey Jr. \*\*  
Richard P. Lindsey

400 Westpark Court  
Suite 220  
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

Telephone: (770) 631-1811  
Facsimile: (770) 631-1771

E-mail:  
postmaster@wsl-peachtreecity.com

Jonathan J. Wade  
H. Clay Collins  
Carlton H. Jones III  
Stephen D. Ott  
Christy R. Jindra †  
Richard M. Golick  
Susan M. Brown  
William M. McHugh  
Stefanie T. McHugh  
Stacey M. Robertson ††

Other Offices  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Fairburn, Georgia

Other licenses:  
\* Florida

\*\*Tennessee & District of Columbia

†Illinois

††Only in Texas

ENTERED - 4-17-00 - SB  
00L0225 - MIKE REEVES

March 23, 2000

VIA HAND DELIVERY AND BY

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

City of Atlanta  
c/o City of Atlanta Council  
President Robb Pitts  
55 Trinity Avenue S.W.  
Suite 2900  
Atlanta, GA 30335

Department of Police Services  
City of Atlanta Police Department  
c/o Chief, Beverly Harvard  
675 Ponce de Leon Ave., N.E.  
Atlanta, GA 30308

RECEIVED

MAR 24 2000

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

**NOTICE OF TORT CLAIM AGAINST CITY OF ATLANTA,**  
**ITS POLICE DEPARTMENT AND OFFICER M. GARDNER**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This law firm is privileged to represent the estate and surviving minor child of Richard Brannon. This letter is sent pursuant to the ante litem requirements of O.C.G.A. § 36-33-5 within six months of September 27, 1999. We look forward to your timely response within thirty days.